

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SCCT-01 /049 W

----- 034447

R 251201Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 840

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 68

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE PROMISES RELEASE 80 DETAINEES

1. SECRETARY OF STATE NORTHERN IRELAND MERLYN REES ISSUED STATEMENT FEBRUARY 24 ANNOUNCING DECISION BEGIN FURTHER PROGRAM OF EXECUTIVE RELEASES DETAINEES. "THIS PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW, IS FOR THE RELEASE OF 80 DETAINEES IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE FIRST RELEASES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE COURSE OF THIS WEEK. I MUST STRESS THAT FURTHER RELEASES WITHIN THIS PROGRAM WILL DEPEND UPON PROGRESS TOWARDS A GENUINE AND SUSTAINED CESSATION OF VIOLENCE. THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK DEMONSTRATE THAT MUCH PROGRESS STILL NEEDS TO BE MADE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE."

2. 61 DETAINEES RELEASED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER SINCE DECEMBER 22. 17 MORE RELEASED BY HEARING COMMISSIONERS LONG KESH/MAZE. AT PRESENT THERE ARE 310 PEOPLE IN DETENTION AND 186 ON INTERIM CUSTODY ORDERS, 13 DETAINEES ARE WOMEN. ONLY 6 MALE DETAINEES ARE LOYALISTS.

3. INITIAL REACTIONS TO NEWS OF RELEASES HOSTILE AND CENTERED AROUND SECSTATE STIPULATION THAT RELEASE PROGRAM SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN LIGHT SECURITY SITUATION. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN SPOKESMAN SEAMUS LOUGHRAN UNACCOUNTABLY ABSENT FROM BELFAST

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AND VICE PRESIDENT MAIRE DRUMM CALLED RELEASES "STUDIED INSULT."

SHE ACCUSED SECSTATE OF HOLDING REMAINING DETAINEES AS POLITICAL
HOSTAGES FOR BEHAVIOUR OF GROUPS OTHER THAN PROVISIONAL IRA.
NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION AND ASSOCIATION FOR
LEGAL JUSTICE JOINED PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN IN CRITICISM OF
CONDITIONAL RELEASES. HOWEVER, THERE NO RPT NO THREATS TO END
CEASEFIRE.
SPICER

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